

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11-25, 27 and 28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 15, 18 and 21 have been amended to better describe the present invention.

1. Claims 1, 12, 16, 17, 24, 25, 27, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gysling et al. (US Patent 6,732,575).

Regarding independent claim 1, Examiner contends that Gysling ('575) discloses all the limitations of these claims. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Claim 1 has been amended to clearly define the present invention. Claim 1 includes the limitation of " strain sensors comprising piezoelectric film material having a pair of conductors disposed on opposing surfaces of the piezoelectric material". Examiner contends that Gysling ('575) shows such a sensor in Col. 20, lines 21-25, however, Applicants find no showing of such a sensor formed of piezoelectric film material with a pair of conductors disposed on opposing sides of the material as claimed by Applicants. Therefore, claim 1 is not anticipated by Gysling ('575) for at least these reasons, and it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot.

2. Claims 12, 16, 17, 24, 25, 27, and 28 variously depend on independent claim 1, and therefore are not anticipated by Gysling ('575) for at least the reasons provided hereinbefore.

3. Claims 3, 19, 20, and 22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gysling ('575) in view of Gysling et al. (US 6,536,291).

Claims 3, 19, 20, and 22 variously depend from claim 1, therefore it is respectfully requested that claims 3, 1, 20, and 22 be reconsidered and allowed for at least the reasons provided hereinbefore.

4. Claims 9, 11, 13-15, 18, 21 and 23 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 15 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of amended claim 1, and therefore is allowable. Applicants reserve the right to amend the other claims in allowable form at a later date.

5. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and allowed. If the Examiner is not prepared to allow all the claims in view of the discussion herein, Applicants hereby respectfully request a phone interview with the Examiner at the Examiner's earliest convenient. Applicants' counsel can be reached at 203-626-3502 (direct dial) between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., or by E-mail at rcrawford@cidra.com.

6. A petition for a two-month extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 is submitted herewith. Please debit the Deposit Account No. 50-0260 Order No. CC-0676 to cover the fee of \$790.00 for the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and of \$450.00 for the two (2) month extension of time. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to Deposit Account No. 50-0260 Order No. CC-0676.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Fernald et al.



Robert D. Crawford
Registration No. 38,119

CiDRA Corporation
50 Barnes Park North
Wallingford, CT 06492
Tel. (203) 626-3502